



YOUNG PEOPLE



Set the scene

- Display a cross next to a large picture or projection of earth from space, symbolising how our salvation hangs on the response of Christ.
- Display different forms of communication around the room, including pens, paper, words, books, radio, newspapers and phones.
- Cover the entire floor with newspapers from the week spread out.
- Display plant pots, soil and seeds.



Be active

Love tracks

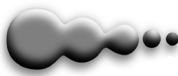
Give each young person a quiz sheet on which to name the song, group/artist and state what it says about love. Use a love compilation album and play 10 different song introductions. Each correct answer would be worth a point.

Hear hear

Ask the young people to work in threes and name each other A, B and C. Ask A and C to sit back to back. A is invited to draw a picture, B has to give verbal instructions to C and C has to try to produce the same picture using only the instructions given. Discuss the importance of clear messages and of active listening rather than just hearing.

Reality ring tones

Give each young person a different action, words or phrases such as 'save the world', 'love and care', 'life is tough' and ask them to make up a ring tone, that would convey that feeling to others. You may wish to have some percussion and homemade instruments ready for use. A tape recorder to record the final tones and explanations could be available for each group to use.



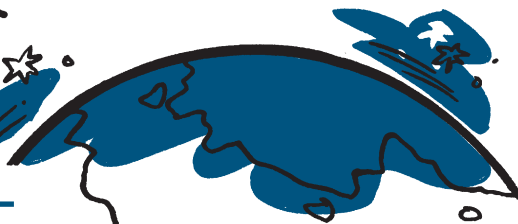
Get started

Newsweek

Ask the young people to walk around the room and pick out one story from the newspapers that talks of God and goodness. Once all have chosen a story, seat the group in a circle and ask them to close their eyes. Ask two or three volunteers to read their stories to the group. Challenge the volunteers to read the story with feeling.

Little voice

Give the young people various names of famous people. They then have to try to impersonate the voices of these people so that the others can guess their identity.



Make connections

Ask the young people what sayings or proverbs they know. Do they agree with them and what do they think they mean? For example, 'too many cooks spoil the broth', 'many hands make light work'. What are our own slogans or mottos for a Christian life?

Share with the young people some of the tough situations we might face in life, talk about who we can turn to in times of need and how these people support us. Consider with them:

- Do we always recognise who is supporting and encouraging us through life?
- Do we need to thank those people?
- Are we there to support others in life? How can we use our talents to help others to grow?
- Help the young people to understand that we have both a horizontal and vertical relationship with God. We are aware that God walks with us and suffers and laughs with us. Yet we are also aware that God gives us an ideal and a challenge to fulfil so we can grow closer together in God's love.



Use the Bible

Project earth

Give each person drawings of a cross, Jesus and the world. Ask them to design a poster using these symbols, outlining what Jesus' mission is. Think of slogans and contact information and opportunities for involvement.

Seeds of faith

Read the Scripture passage and then ask the young people to explain how God is asking us to be people of value and conviction. Ask them to make two bookmarks, one with a verse from the Scripture that affirms us, and another that challenges us. A linked action may be the planting of some seeds and the decoration of the plant pots with words of hope and challenge.

Pray it through

Invite the young people to arrange their good news stories from *Get started* into the shape of a cross and remember the idea of God's goodness in people and in the world.

As a prayer action, ask each young person to come forward and choose a newspaper page. Invite them to write their own asking prayer onto the page and then to work with the rest of the group to make these into a paper chain.

As a closing reflection, play some instrumental music, or 'Search for the Hero' (see *Resources*), and invite someone to read the Scripture of the day.

Resources

Music

M people, 'Search for the hero', *Ultimate Collection* 2005.

Go to www.Amazon.co.uk and type in love album. It will give you a range to choose from including *The Love Album*, 2002.

Film

Local Hero, PG cert, 1983, DVD released 2001.